



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE  
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL  
INSPECTIONS  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

**Wednesday, September 19, 2012**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-4338)

**Attachments:**    [AUDIO](#)

Present:      Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Commissioner Barbara Bigby,  
                 Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and Commissioner Susan Burton

Absent:       Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D.  
                 and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Call to Order. (12-4325)

**Chairperson Montano called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.**

**Chairperson Montano led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER**

1. Approval of the September 12, 2012 Minutes. (12-4327)

**On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Bigby, unanimously carried, the minutes of September 12, 2012 were approved with the following correction:**

- **On Page 2, agenda item number 5 should read...and Page 2 #4, on September 11, 2012.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

**2. Department Representatives Report's for September 19, 2012**

- Department of Auditor-Controller
  - Monthly Report
- Department of Children and Family Services
  - Monthly Report
  - August 15, 2012 follow-up action report on LAUSD locked computers in Group Homes
- Internal Services Department
  - Monthly Report
  - August 15, 2012 follow-up report on Apprentice program for foster youth
    - Program statistics and County cost
- Department of Mental Health
  - Monthly Report
  - August 15, 2012 follow-up report on closure of AB 3632 program
- Probation Department
  - Monthly Report
- Sheriff's Department
  - Monthly Report
  - August 15, 2012 follow-up reports:
    - Telephone contract for Men's Central Jail
    - Inmate Welfare Fund
    - County's agreement with Taft Community Correctional Facility

**Auditor-Controller (AC)**

**There was no representative present for this meeting.**

**Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)**

**Ms. Patricia Balonos-Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator, Out of Home Care Management Division, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) reported that during the period of August 14, 2012 to September 17, 2012, DCFS hotline received a total of 22 referrals in the following categories:**

- **7 Sexual Abuse**
- **5 Physical Abuse**

- 9 General Neglect
- 1 Emotional Abuse

Ms. Patricia Balonos-Gonzalez, also reported that during the period of August 14, 2012 to September 17, 2012, a total of 29 cases were closed in the following categories:

- 6 Sexual Abuse
  - 4 Unfounded
  - 2 Evaluated out
- 11 Physical Abuse
  - 8 Unfounded
  - 1 Substantiated
  - 1 Evaluated out
  - 1 Inconclusive
- 9 General Neglect
  - 8 Unfounded
  - 1 Evaluated out
- 3 Emotional Abuse
  - 2 Unfounded
  - 1 inconclusive

Ms. Patricia Balonos-Gonzalez, further reported a total of 1,179 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) incidents for the following months:

- July 18, 2012 to July 31, 2012 - 80
- August 1, 2012 to August 31, 2012 - 706
- September 1, 2012 to September 17, 2012 - 393

Additionally, as reported at the August 15, 2012 meeting Ms. Balonos-Gonzalez reaffirmed that the computers from Los Angeles Unified School District should remain unlocked for accessibility. Since she spoke with the LAUSD representative there has been no additional information and she will continue to follow-up.

Ms. Elizabeth Howard, CSA III, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), informed the Commission that she attended a training on September 5, 2012 presented by Michelle Guyman, Probation Department, entitled "Commercial Sexual Exploitation." Ms. Howard

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indicated in the training, it was stated that the average age of human trafficking victims are recruited into prostitution at 12 years old; and these victims may average 18 encounters an evening, 7 days a week. The males/pimps may earn up to \$547,000 a year with three stable working girls. She informed the Commission that the human trafficking business has grown larger than the drug trafficking business and group homes are targeted the most for recruiting young girls. Ms. Howard urged Commissioners to share this information during their inspections and inform the young girls that help is available for them. She further stated that she will share additional information from the presentation with the Commissioners at a later date.

Ms. Howard further reported that on September 12, 2012 she attended the grand opening of the Transition Age Youth (TAY) Center in Carson, California. This facility is a drop-in resource center that aids youth transitioning out of the system. The grand opening featured a testimony from a young man who shared his life story and peer workers formerly in the foster care system who mentor and guide youth in getting their life on the right track. She also stated the TAY Center was very impressive and the grand opening didn't have a normal ribbon cutting ceremony, however, they released balloons in the air with messages that included things associated with the youth today. Also, they made a time capsule which will be opened in 25 years to see how things have changed with youth.

Ms. Howard concluded by reporting that Perfect Image group home located in San Bernardino County has been placed on hold.

#### Internal Services Department

Mr. William Kiriama, Manager II, Maintenance Operations Division, ISD, distributed a fact sheet that displayed the status of ISD's Youth Career Development Program in the following areas:

- 111 Interns
- 74 Graduates
- 56 Hired by ISD

Mr. Kiriama further shared an email in response to questions posed by

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the Commissioners pertaining to the programs cost. The cost depends on the condition of the youth and if they were already in the Independent Living Programs with DCFS or staying in an off-site home through a County/State program. The email also stated that some programs require youth to pay half or a portion of rent required by the rental agency. Additionally, a clothing allowance is provided depending on the status of the youth.

### Department of Mental Health (DMH)

Mr. Paul McIver, LCSW, District Chief, Countywide Children's Case Management and Program Administration, Department of Mental Health (DMH), provided the Commissioners with an update of the Service Area 3 Group Home/PMRT project that DMH has been working on since 2010. The program observes group homes with multiple contracts with local law enforcement and psychiatric response teams in the San Gabriel Valley area. Under the contract they receive afterhours/weekend calls regarding children in crisis or dangerous to themselves or someone else. DMH communicates with high risk rated group homes to identify the policies, procedures, and support systems used to reduce problems. To this point, the program has been successful in reducing frequent calls, false alarms, and in curtailing the hospitalization of children. The program has also helped to appropriately place children in group homes/facilities tailored to the child's mental state. He further reported that the program began as a small pilot and is now expanding countywide.

Mr. McIver also reported that DMH has partnered with the Probation Department to establish an aftercare program for children coming out of group homes. The contract process which identified 11 agencies that have provided group home services to probation youth has just been completed. Additionally, DMH will follow children back into the community to offer support to children and their families to prevent children from returning to group homes. Support will be provided in the following areas:

- Case management
- Crisis intervention
- How to obtain basic services

### Probation Department (PD)

Ms. Lisa Campbell-Motten, Director of Placement Permanency & Quality

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**Assurance, reported on the status of Absent With Out Leave (AWOL) incidents for the month of August 2012 as follows:**

- **119 AWOLS**
  - **108 Youth**
    - **50 Remain AWOL**
    - **25 Returned to group home**
    - **28 Went to juvenile hall**
    - **1 Terminated**
    - **2 Camp**
    - **1 Relative caregiver home**

**Ms. Campbell-Motten also reported that the Probation Department has hired four new Program Analysts that will provide statistical breakdowns of the data concerning AWOLS. To date, an analyst reported that the highest percentage of AWOLS are Hispanic and is looking into why some group homes percentages are higher than others.**

**Additionally, Ms. Campbell-Motten reported on the following group home investigations:**

**No monitoring investigations**

- **Pennylane Group Home**
  - **2 Sexual abuses - unfounded**
  - **3 Physical abuses - resulted in false information; however, staff had no control over classroom and was issued a corrective action for training**
- **Eddie Lee Fontana**
  - **1 youth accused staff of attacking him; however, staff was attacked and needed medical treatment**
- **Caregiver Abuse**
  - **Physical, Sexual, Emotional abuse and general neglect. This allegation was unfounded; however, the youth has been moved to another caregiver due to the concern of a total of 17 referrals made to DCFS over the history of this case.**

**She further reported that there are no major moves in the PD and the Chief of Probation has not disclosed the new plan for the department, however, there have been many movements and promotions resulting in**

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a shortage of staff. Also, former Probation Chief Deputy Carl Remington has retired but continues to work until a replacement is hired. Except for two reports, the Audit Monitoring Reports have been completed.

### Sheriff Department

Commander Asmus reported that he was unsuccessful in connecting with Commander Cooper to obtain the report for the inmate welfare fund and will follow-up with him to send a letter to the Commission. Commander Asmus also reported that on September 18, 2012, he visited the Long Beach Courthouse and the Board of Corrections was inspecting the new lockup unit that is almost complete. The lockup is the size of a football field and can house up to 600 inmates, separating males, females, and juveniles. The facility has a state-of-art control system with cameras located in each cell providing limited privacy and suicide watch. One major concern is preventing suicides and making cells more secure as opposed to having a suicide watch area. He currently sits on the suicide prevention committee for his division of the Sheriff's Department and reported a new gown has been designed to protect suicide inmates from harming themselves. Currently, Video Arraignment is being considered for inmates from the Mental Health unit. The potential problem is having the mentally ill inmate sign the arraignment waiver. Commander Asmus invited the Commissioners on a tour of the facility.

Following a brief discussion, Commander Asmus informed the Commission of:

- More courtroom closures
- Possible closure of a portion of the Mira Loma Federal prison, however, AB109 prisoners may remain
- Edelman Courthouse electrical panel may be repaired pending the approval of the State
- A stealth system was invented by a lieutenant for inmates on trial which ties the inmate's ankles, leaves their hands free and limits movement

Additionally, Commander Asmus will provide a list of courthouses involved in the stealth system pilot program. He stated that he will continue to provide the Commission with updates.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

3. Chairperson's Report on Various Items for September 19, 2012. (12-4329)

**Chairperson Montano shared the following news articles with the Commissioners:**

**Daily Breeze:**

- **Sheriff is at the Crossroads (September 16, 2012)**
- **Former Assemblyman is Arrested (September 18, 2012)**

**Los Angeles Times:**

- **Fixes for L.A.'s Jails (September 14, 2012)**
- **Progress at the Jails (September 14, 2012)**
- **Baca Faces Tough Questions (September 17, 2012)**
- **Baca Facing Hardest Test of Career (September 17, 2012)**
- **County Probation Official Arrested on Fraud Charges (September 18, 2012)**
- **Combating Wrongful Jailings (September 19, 2012)**
- **Making Sure They Don't Jail Wrong Person (September 19, 2012)**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Treasurer's Report for September 19, 2012. (12-4330)

**There was no report presented.**

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports for September 19, 2012. (12-4331)

**Ms. Jenny Kimbell, Commission Services Staff, shared with the Commissioners a thank you card from Reyan'na Milsap, 2012 Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship recipient.**

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports for September 19, 2012. (12-4332)

**In Compliance:**

- **Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Andrews visited Dreamhome - Page 14 #1, on August 13, 2012.**
- **Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Andrews visited Dreamhome - Page 14 #2, on August 23, 2012.**



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- **Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Andrews visited Dreamhome - Page 13 #4, on August 24, 2012.**
  - **Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Andrews visited Olivecrest - Page 29 #4, on August 6, 2012.**
  - **Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Andrews visited Aviva Center - Page 1# 4, on September 11, 2012.**
  - **Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Andrews visited Project Six - Page 36 #1, on September 18, 2012.**
  - **Commissioner Bigby visited Care Provider - Page 5 #1, on September 18, 2012.**

**7. Commissioners Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from September 13, 2012 to September 18, 2012. (12-4333)**

**During the reporting period the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:**

- **Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Andrews visited Norwalk Station on September 13, 2012.**

**During the reporting period the following Group Home was reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:**

- **Commissioner Bigby revisited Life Circles Group Home - Page 24 #4 on September 13, 2012 and reported that some repairs have been made that was requested at the last visit, however, repairs are still needed in the following areas:**
  - **The front and backyard needs to be replanted**
  - **The door in the hallway needs repair**
  - **Patio furniture needs to be replaced**

**Following discussion, Commissioner Bigby stated that she will revisit the group home at a later date.**

**During the reporting period the following Group Home was visited but not inspected:**

- **Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Andrews visited Beachwood - Page 26 #1 on September 17, 2012 and reported no one was home and will revisit on September 25, 2012.**

### **III. MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Matters Not Posted**

9. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-4334)

**There were no matters presented.**

#### **Public Comment**

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-4335)

**There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.**

#### **Adjournment**

11. Adjournment for the meeting of September 19, 2012 (12-4336)

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.**